

the light faded I saw other birds passing over but I was unable to stay to examine them. The closest distance of observation was about 20 m and all observations were made using x10 binoculars. All young birds and adult females identified had pale heads (with paler foreheads) and were thus separable from both Hobby *F. subbuteo* and Eastern Red-footed Falcon *F. amurensis* on this character as well as on underside colour and pattern. I am very familiar with all the species mentioned, having seen them on many occasions in Zambia.

Most *F. vespertinus* appear to migrate to the west of East Africa (Britton 1980) and to winter in south-central and southwestern Africa (Moreau 1972). Britton (1980) gives two records from Kenya, and two further records are documented by Pearson (1981) and Lewis (1981), the former record being from near Kamboyo in Tsavo West NP. The occurrence of at least 25 birds, possibly a good many more, in Kenya is therefore noteworthy.

REFERENCES

- LEWIS, A.D. 1981. Red-footed Falcon *Falco vespertinus* at Nairobi. *Scopus* 5:57.
 PEARSON, D.J. 1981. Red-footed Falcon *Falco vespertinus* in Tsavo. *Scopus* 5:57.

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ALTITUDE RECORD FOR RED-NECKED SPURFOWL *FRANCOLINUS AFER* On 10-11 June 1980 I saw several pairs of Red-necked Spurfowl *Francolinus afer* near Kawatera, 5 km northeast of Mbeya along the road to Chunya. The highest point of this road is conveniently marked at 8050 feet (2450 m). Britton (1980) gives the altitude range for this species as sea-level to 1500 m. My observations of several pairs at 2450 m is therefore a significant increase. The surrounding uplands are not much higher although the bare peak of Mbeya Mt reaches 2834 m.

The genus *Francolinus* includes several highland species which usually replace *afer* above 1500 m. However, there are no records in Snow (1978) for other species in this area and the range maps given in Mackworth-Praed & Grant (1957) leave the area blank (although only just in some cases). The natural evergreen forest and upland grassland have, in recent years, been replaced by stands of Holarctic evergreens *Pinus* spp. and local cultivation (*shambas*). It seems likely that any forest species have retreated to the remaining gallery forest on the escarpment slopes. *Francolinus afer* would then be the only member of the genus in a position to exploit the vacant habitat of cultivation and young plantations. However, it may well have been at this altitude all along, competing with other *Francolinus* spp. (if any) at the forest edge.

I could not assign any of the birds to a particular race as this is border country between nominate and *F. a. cranchii*.

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FIRST EAST AFRICAN RECORD OF THE RED-NECKED STINT *CALIDRIS RUFICOLLIS* On 16 May 1981 C. Taylor and I visited the pans at Ngomeni Salt Works, which are about 25 km north of Malindi, Kenya coast. Some of the pans are disused and are partly overgrown with low vegetation, with pools of rainwater and large patches of mud. The area attracts good numbers of waders and on this occasion there were flocks of Curlew Sandpipers *Calidris ferruginea*, Little Stints *C. minuta* and Marsh Sandpipers *Tringa stagnatilis* with smaller numbers of other species including a Sanderling *C. alba* in breeding plumage. On our arrival at 10:30 hrs the first birds we saw were a flock of about 25 *C. minuta*, most in summer plumage, and our attention was immediately drawn to two birds which stood out from the rest of the flock by virtue of their strikingly-